

REMARKS

Claims 2-15 and 19 are pending in this application. Claims 12 and 15 are the independent claims. By this Amendment, claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 2-8 and 10-15 are amended. Claim 19 as added. No new matter is added

Specification

The title of the specification is indicated as not being descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed. The title of the specification is amended.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,149,109 to Jelinek et al. (Jelinek). As claim 1 is cancelled and claims 2 and 3 are amended to depend from independent claim 15, the rejection is moot.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 1,835,139 to Bullard. As claim 1 is cancelled and claims 2-5, 10 and 11 are amended to depend from independent claim 15, the rejection is moot.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication 2004/0250713 to Bergman in view of Bullard. As claim 1 is cancelled, the rejection of that claim is moot. The rejection of claims 2-15 is respectfully traversed.

Bergman relates to a press which comprises a pressure vessel having an internal closure. The internal closure comprises a cover, a number of elements for transmitting forces in pressurized operation between the cover and the inner wall of the pressure vessel. Each element has a first contact surface adapted to fit a contact surface of the cover and a second contact surface adapted to fit a contact surface of the inner wall of the pressure vessel. The cover 40 has a flat bottom surface is arranged in the pressure vessel 30 and is provided with a seal that is suitable for this purpose. Similarly to the inner wall 34 of the pressure vessel 30, the cover 40 has a contact surface 42 which is curved in the longitudinal plane of section shown through the pressure vessel 30. A force-transmitting element 44 is arranged between the inner wall 34 of the pressure vessel 30 and the cover 40. The force-transmitting element 44 has a first lower contact surface 46 and a second upper contact surface 48 which are curved in the shown plane. The lower contact surface 46 is fitted into the contact surface 42 of the cover 40 and the upper contact surface 48 is fitted into the contact surface 38 of the inner wall 34.

It is alleged in the Office Action (without any indication of corresponding structure in the reference) that Bergman discloses “a seal and a press method

of sealing the press with the seal substantially as claimed except for the sealing ring.”

It is further alleged that Bullard discloses “a segmented seal forming a closed ring when mounted for sealing the container opening.”

Thus, the Office Action fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness in light of the combination of references because there is no allegation or evidence that the combination of references discloses or suggest all of the claim features. For example, the combination of references fail to disclose or suggest, and are not alleged to disclose or suggest, a mounting beneath the lid, the mounting being adapted to receive a sealing arrangement, as recited in claim 15. Further, the combination of references fail to disclose or suggest, and are not alleged to disclose or suggest, a sealing arrangement disposed in the mounting. Accordingly, the rejection must be withdrawn.

In addition to the above deficiencies, none of the features recited in claims 2-14 are even acknowledged as pending. As such, obviousness has not been established for the subject matter of claims 2-14. Because each and every feature has not been shown as being either anticipated or rendered obvious by the combination of references, the next Office Action cannot be made final.

Moreover, Bullard relates to piston rings for use in an internal combustion motor to maintain a seal between the cylinder wall and the piston. The piston rings are inserted in groove 4 in the piston 2 and rides along the wall of the motor while the piston reciprocates.

Thus, not only does Bullard fails to disclose or suggest any of the features of the rejected claims, there is no motivation or suggestion to modify the press of Bergman to include "mounting" (not disclosed or suggested by either of the applied references) to include piston rings. Further, even were such a modification attempted, there is no expectation of success as neither references makes any allusion whatsoever as to why or how such a modification would be implemented.

As the combination of references fails to render the claims obvious, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Moreover, as *prima facie* obviousness has not been established for all of the pending claims, the next Office Action cannot be made final. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim

None of the references, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, the seal as claimed in claim 3 wherein each stop element is arranged so as to extend between a mounting forming portion and a segment, and so as to be movably arranged relative to the mounting forming portion, and fixedly arranged relative to the segment, as recited in new claim 19.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35,094, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
HARMESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35,094
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC/JWF/dmc
